

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
February 5, 2007**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**LOUISVILLE CRACK DEALER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS AND 6 MONTHS
ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WEAPON CHARGES**

– He fled from police and threw his .38 revolver away

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced that on February 2, 2007, **ODELL P. SMITH, JR.** age 23, of 100 South 43rd Street, Louisville, Kentucky, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for possession of five grams or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine base with the intent to distribute and carrying a firearm during and in relation to the drug offense.

Charles R. Simpson III, Judge, United States District Court, sentenced **Smith** to 10 years and 6 months imprisonment, plus 4 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

U.S. Attorney Huber praised the work of the LMPD officers “for keeping an armed crack dealer off the Louisville streets for ten years.”

On May 31, 2005 two detectives of the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department observed Smith and another individual engaged in what appeared to them to be a hand to hand drug

transaction. When they stopped their car to investigate, Smith fled on foot.

The detectives gave chase and as they followed Smith through the neighborhood, they saw him pull a revolver from his pants and throw it into some bushes. The detectives eventually caught Smith, who struggled with them and refused to place his hands behind his back as ordered. During the struggle, Smith pulled a bag of crack cocaine from his pants pocket and attempted to throw it away as well.

After the detectives took Smith into custody, they retrieved a loaded .38 revolver and the baggie containing 9.9 grams of crack consisting of 12 small rocks packaged for sale and one larger rock.

On October 12, 2006, **Smith** pled guilty to possession with the intent to distribute 5 grams or more of "crack" and, in furtherance of that drug trafficking crime, possessed a firearm, namely, a Charter Arms .38 caliber revolver. The "crack" seized has an approximate street value of \$1,000.00.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke and was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

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